

MM87-68

DOCKET FILE COPY DUPLICATE
DR. MARY MORRIS
204 SMITH STREET
PHONE 582-2997
LAGRANGE, GEORGIA 30240

~~SECRET~~
HDTV
TO: P & Rules
12-28-95 MMD.

Chairman Reed E. Hundt
FCC
Washington, D.C.

RECEIVED

JUL 10 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt

I am opposed to the cost of the change in TV transmissions. Many of us will discard our TV's before paying more to receive the garbage produced at this time.

Furthermore, I am completely disillusioned with and have no confidence in the politics of Washington.

The last ones considered are always the tax payers.

Enough is enough

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Sincerely
Mary Morris DB

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MM 27-268

MMB

Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St NW
Washington, DC 20554-0001

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JUL 10 1996

Dear Sir,

[REDACTED]

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

I recently read an article about how television broadcasters are pushing for high definition television--HDTV. I wish to comment on this attempt by private industry with apparent government help to force TV viewers to purchase new sets or converters, as well as gain additional channel space free.

HDTV is probably an advance in technology, but all sets now in use would have to be replaced or a \$200 converter purchased which would not improve picture quality. In addition, even the experts say that for the average TV viewer to notice a difference they would have to purchase at least a 35" set which costs hundreds of dollars more than a regular set. I see no way that this so-called improvement can benefit the average consumer.

Finally, the broadcasters want the government to give them additional channel space **free** so they can televise analog and digital signals simultaneously. The FCC has estimated that auctioning these extra channels could bring in as much as \$100 billion. Surely this would be a huge help in reducing the deficit. If these channels are not auctioned, it is the same as asking for a \$383 contribution from every American. The broadcasters request also includes asking the FCC to **require** several hours daily of HDTV broadcasting.

We ask you to support auctioning any additional channel space, urging the FCC not to require mandatory HDTV broadcasts, and to not allow the television broadcast industry to force consumers into additional expense (let them pay for more channels and require that analog broadcasts continue for 10 years).

Sincerely,

John, Susan, Beth and Amanda Nygard

John, Susan, Beth, and Amanda Nygard
5002 South L St
Tacoma, WA 98408
206-475-2221

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SHAW

Chatsworth

LATimes 11-30-95

■ As telecommunications reform legislation winds its way through Congress, the Federal Communications Commission faces an expanded role as protector of the public interest. But even under present authority, the FCC finds itself in a position to change fundamentally the way telecommunications policy serves America's children.

With the public's support, the commission could:

- Make sure every broadcast television station shows a certain minimum amount of children's educational programming every week.

- Make sure that every classroom in the country has access to the Internet, electronic mail and distance learning.

- Make sure that broadcast television stations tell TV guides in local newspapers what shows are appropriate for children and what are too violent for children.

- Make sure that when, as Congress has asked, we give \$400 billion of the public's airwaves to broadcast television stations so they can have four times as many channels, some percentage of the new programming will be devoted to public-interest purposes such as educational programming and non-partisan debate of political issues.

But if the public wants these results, it needs to speak out. The industry is telling us what it thinks; the public should let us know where it stands before these issues are decided. I ask that the public write to FCC, Consumer Assistance Branch, 1919 M St. N.W., Washington, D.C., 20554 or call us at (202) 418-0200 or e-mail me at "rhundt@fcc.gov."

REED E. HUNDT
Chairman, FCC
Washington

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JUL 10 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary
Dear Chairman Hundt,

RECEIVED
DIVISION
JAN 16 8 20 AM '96

MM 87-268

January 21, 1996

Enclosed are some advertisements for large screen television sets sold in Eugene, Oregon. As you can see right now you can buy a 48" Toshiba with 800 lines of resolution for \$1,997. My own Toshiba is last years model which has 700 lines of resolution which I paid \$1,800. So in the last year all on their own television manufacturers increased the resolution of their TVs just to sell more sets. Also listed are a 45" Mitsubishi with 800 lines for \$1,999. and a Pro-Scan 80" giant with 1,000 lines of resolution for \$7,999.

My point is that a HDTV of about 50" size with a SVGA standard of 800/600 lines should ~~cost~~ about \$2,500 to begin with and about \$2,000. after a few years. How do you get the idea that HDTV has to cost \$2,000 in addition to the normal price of a set of any given size? This is crazy! The wide screen, five channel sound format is crazy! We don't need it. We don't want it. It would be a foolish thing to manufacture because only a few people will ever buy it.

Right now multi-media computers come with whats called "full motion video" which gives up to 1,100 lines of resolution at 30 frames per second. That is already better than my proposed SVGA HDTV standard. We need the cheaper, more utilitarian, computer compatible system. We can do it today, for peanuts compared to the Grand Alliance's ivory tower system. So lets do it right, and let's do it with a scalable, compatible, SVGA system.

Sincerely,

Christopher Calder

Christopher Calder
377 W 8th Ave. #114
Eugene, OR 97401
(503) 345-6372

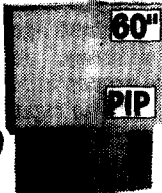
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DATE 1/21/96

See bottom of page for details

RCA 60" HOME THEATER

- Home theater features
- Advanced color P.I.P.
- Sound retrieval system
- 20 watt stereo amplifier
- Channel guide
- Multi audio/video jacks
- Dual antenna inputs



03801800 P 80752



PROSCAN® THE FIRST 80" T.V.

A MONUMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT

- Dolby Pro-Logic
- 55 WATT internal amp.
- 1000 lines of resolution
- Advanced hi-mapped graphics user interface
- Separate PIP volume with headphones



03801899 PS 80990

✓ 1,000 lines!
TWIN TUNER
PIP, PICTURE
OUTSIDE
PICTURE &
SPLIT SCREEN

INCLUDES
PROTECTION &
ENHANCEMENT
SHIELD



RCA

HOME THEATRE 46" TV FULL COLOR PICTURE IN PICTURE

- Slim design
- SRS sound retrieval system with 5 watts per channel amplifier
- Universal remote control
- Super-video connector
- 13 jack audio/video panel
- Broadcast stereo with DTX noise reduction



MITSUBISHI

45" SLIM LINE STEREO

- SUPERB HIGH QUALITY & GREAT STYLE
- Advanced picture-in-picture
- 100 + 100 sound system
- 800 lines of resolution
- Home theater mode provides an easy, single step way to optimize the set for home theater operation
- Black or oak finish

02801541 V0451

FREE
same day
local delivery
on all 31" and
larger TVs

MITSUBISHI

50" ADVANCED P.I.P.

- VCR Storage
- Slim design
- Surround sound
- 100 + 100 audio
- 800 lines of resolution
- Super audio-video board-set
- Jockey first-brand remote with VCR/cable box control

03801800 P 80752

HITACHI TOSHIBA

50" PROJECTION TV

- SPECTACULAR PERFORMANCE SOUND CONVENIENCE & STYLE
- 700 lines of resolution
- Picture-in-picture with quick freeze
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) with Media Sub-System
- Illuminated slim design remote to operate virtually all VCRs & cable decoders
- New slim design

09801512 50 EX128

48" HOME THEATRE

SLIM DESIGN TV

- 700 lines of resolution
- Super audio-video board-set
- Jockey first-brand remote with VCR/cable box control

04701490 TP48E60



TOSHIBA TOSHIBA TOSHIBA

61" SLIM DESIGN

- 2-tuner picture-in-picture
- 2-channel DSP & Dolby surround
- Digital convergence
- 900 lines of resolution
- 30 Y/C comb filter
- 48 Watt audio outputs

04701818 61E60

30" TV/MONITOR

SLIM DESIGN

- 700 lines of resolution
- Super audio-video board-set
- Jockey first-brand remote with VCR/cable box control

04701305 30E60

35" T.V.

- Picture-in-picture
- INVAR shadow mask
- Extended data services
- 800 lines of resolution
- Front surround sound
- External speaker terminal

04701350 35E60

N • GREAT PRICES

MM87-268

From: <lieder@luminet1.luminet.net>
To: C1.C1(awise)
Date: 6/28/96 9:46am
Subject: Comments from CS survey 1

Allan Lieder (lieder@luminet.net)
451 West Broadway

Winona, MN 55987
USA

Allan Lieder has this to say:

First visit?: yes

Areas visited today:

Hot Topics

My Favorite Page Is Hot Topics

I Really Hated The Page

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Comments or Questions:

I am sending this information via the CSB because it appears to be the most user friendly part of the FCC Home Page. I actually wanted to comment on the HDTV rules and proceedings. I couldn't find it easily, so I am here.

I have heard that the FCC is moving to give the broadcast stations additional spectrum so that they can begin to broadcast in HDTV. They say they need this to compete in the market. I wish they would compete. Our local broadcasters haven't even begun to broadcast in stereo. Why do they need more spectrum for HDTV if they haven't even moved to the new technology of stereo?

The area I am talking about in particular is the La Crosse Wisconsin market. I get stereo over other stations that are brought in by cable. They are great. The only bad thing is that they are blocked out most of the time because the local station demands the cable company to "protect" the local station.

Protection seems to be at odds with competition. Maybe the local station would be providing stereo if they had to compete.

Sincerely,

Allan R. Lieder

Server protocol: HTTP/1.0
Remote host: lumts-01-09.luminet.net
Remote IP address: 204.248.112.59

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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MM 87-2108

951027

JG
FYE
REH

May 23, 1996

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**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS**

1125 Fifteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 833-7000

J. J. BARRY
International President

JACK F. MOORE
International Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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JUL 10 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

**RE: In The Matter Of Advanced Television
Systems & Their Impact Upon The
Existing Broadcast Service
(MM Docket No: 87-268)**

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We have been notified of the Fifth Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for MM Docket No: 87-268, **Advanced Television Systems and Their Impact Upon the Existing Television Broadcast Service**, and have had the opportunity to review your comments and those of your fellow FCC Commissioners regarding this extremely important matter.

Mr. Chairman, in your comments, you raise the critical issue of whether the government "should be in the business of mandating standards," which we do not necessarily agree with.

As you may know, the two largest set manufacturers, Thomson and Philips, have pledged in writing to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and International Union of Electronic, Electrical, Salaried, Machine and Furniture Workers (IUE) to manufacture High Definition Television (HDTV) receivers and components in the United States once a transmission standard is in place. Similarly, broadcasters are collectively poised to spend billions of dollars on new investments in digital infrastructure and equipment after this standard is adopted.

We believe that adoption of the proposed standard by the FCC will trigger the creation of many thousands of jobs in these industries. Yet, none of these investments will happen and none of these jobs will materialize until the FCC rapidly adopts this digital standard. The IBEW does not believe that Thomson, Philips, or any other manufacturer will get serious about the mass production of HDTV receivers unless the government sets a transmission standard. There must be certainty in the marketplace for broadcasters and manufacturers to risk spending such

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Used for



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS**

**The Honorable Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
May 23, 1996
Page 2**

vast amounts of money without the possibility of a reasonable rate of return as a result of a critical mass production and distribution of HDTV programming to large audiences of consumers.

We believe that the proposed standard satisfies the needs of the computer industry. While one or two companies have waited until the very last minute to launch speculative objections to the proposed standard, the bottom line is that the overwhelming majority of the computer industry favors this standard.

Please ponder for a moment the risks associated with further delay in implementing this standard. Not only will jobs not be created, America will face the possibility of losing its well-earned yet fragile lead in digital video technology. This would be a grave error that our nation can ill afford.

We applaud you for your decision to proceed with the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in this matter, and at the same time see every reason why the FCC should issue its final order and rule by September. The FCC has an amazing opportunity to bring America into the digital age, and to unleash a new industry in America which will have profound benefits for generations.

We urge the Commission to adopt the proposed standard as soon as possible and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. J. Barry", is written over the typed name.

**J. J. Barry
International President**

JJB:pvs

**cc: The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
The Honorable Susan Ness
The Honorable James H. Quello**



James R. Waters
137 Osprey Circle
Ellenton, FL 34222

MM87-268

NW13

Mr. Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW,
Washington, D.C. 20554-0001

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JUL 10 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Date: December 28, 1995

Subject: High Definition Television

Dear Mr. Hundt:

Our local newspaper, The Bradenton Herald, published an article relating to the hearings the FCC has been holding relative to HDTV. After reading the article, I must inform you of my strong objection to replacing the present analog television with digital television. The only persons to benefit from this would be the television set manufacturers and the first television company/companies to go on line with HDTV commercially. The average citizen of the United States would be forced to purchase new TV sets even though there will be no significant difference in quality of the picture as stated by members of the television industry. I can see why the manufacturers of television sets would be all for going to digital television. All one has to do is look at the oversupply of television sets in the market place to see there is a glut of analog television sets available to the consumer. How better to create a new market than to change over from analog to digital so that everyone would have to buy a high priced television set or at the very least a digital converter for an analog set. At any rate the cost to the public would be overwhelming. I dare say that if the government tried to increase taxes, in the same proportion as digital TV would cost, that there might be a big change in Congress in the next election.

Perhaps it would be more equal to the American public if those wanting to televise HDTV would be able to do so as long as they sent out the analog signal as well. If the television industry feels that digital TV is all that good then they should be the ones to accept the increased cost by sending out both signals. Let them create the market instead of shoving it down the throats of the public.

Please protect the American public and don't let the television industry get away with this boondoggle.

Sincerely,

James R. Waters

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From: jmauck (jmauck)
To: CPENDARV
Date: Thursday, September 14, 1995 12:04 pm
Subject: Misdirected Mail

MM 87-268

This office received an information copy of a letter signed by you. I am directing this message to you since you are the only contact name I have. The letter was an information copy of an STA that was directed to the EIC of the Baltimore Office. The letter was then forwarded by the Post Office to this office. The Baltimore Office was closed and the staff consolidated into this office in June of 95. Any future correspondence should be sent to: Columbia Operations Center, Post Office Box 250, Columbia, MD 21045. Engineer In Charge, John R. Hudak. Thank you.

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JUL 10 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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MM87-268

From: <lieder@luminet1.luminet.net>
To: Cl.Cl(awise)
Date: 6/28/96 9:46am
Subject: Comments from CS survey 1

Allan Lieder (lieder@luminet.net)
451 West Broadway

Winona, MN 55987
USA

Allan Lieder has this to say:

First visit?: yes

Areas visited today:

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JUL 10 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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Hot Topics

My Favorite Page Is Hot Topics

I Really Hated The Page

Comments or Questions:

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Protection seems to be at odds with competition. Maybe the local station would be providing stereo if they had to compete.

Sincerely,

Allan R. Lieder

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MM87-268

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MMF/Dec. 31, 1995

JUL 10 1996

Dear Mr. Hundt,

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

I want to ~~express~~ my
opinion, after reading the
enclosed article on "digital"
TV in the future.

For those who can afford
it, it's no big deal - and
exciting. But it seems
to me it's like asking
everyone to buy a ~~Cadillac~~
Cadillac because they're so
good.

It would eliminate the
pleasure of TV from small sets
for the poorer people in our
country. Not fair.

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LHM:GDE

Another example of not fair

is the "scrambling" of some ~~to~~
stations to force the use of
a box with a monthly rental.
People in our area complained
and boxes weren't needed. But
of course, as time goes by,
different channels are included
or excluded from basic service
so much for de-regulation.

I hope you hear from
many people — and that
someone actually reads this
and records my opinion.

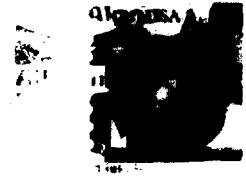
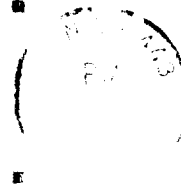
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Margot J. Reynolds
(Mrs. Robert H.)

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Mr & Mrs Robert H Reynolds
561 Palisades Dr
Akron, OH
44303-1703



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TV upgrade would cost big bucks

• Stations seek digital system, junking analog signals.
Move would make viewers pay \$187 billion for new sets

BY FRANK GREVE
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON: TV stations aren't advertising this, but their owners have a plan that could cost you more than \$200 billion.

First, they want to phase out their current transmission system and replace it with a more efficient, computer-style digital system. The move, which they hope will help build audiences, has a stunning side effect: It will make obsolete every television now operating in America, including about 9 million bought this holiday season.

Replacing today's 220 million outmoded analog TVs with digital sets to receive the new signal will cost viewers \$187 billion, according to the National Association of Broadcasters, an industry lobby based in Washington.

In addition because stations can't send digital and analog signals over the same channel, broadcasters want use of a second channel free for at least 15 years.

This proposed channel gift to broadcasters comes just as their airwave rivals in the cellular telephone and pager industry have paid more than \$8 billion for new channels at government auctions.

Were new TV channels to be auctioned, too, their sale might generate \$100 billion for the U.S. Treasury, according to the Federal Communications Commission,

NEW TV TECHNOLOGY



Current TV

- 307,000 pixels (picture cells) per picture
- Has 525 horizontal lines per frame



HDTV

- 2,073,000 pixels per picture
- Has about 1,000 horizontal lines per frame

What viewers will need:

New TV, 35" or larger or converter box hooked up to current TV

Source: National Association of Broadcasters, Consumer Electronics Group, Electronics Research Corp.

TV

• Converters available but quality not advanced

Continued from Page A1

which oversees broadcasting.

The \$100 billion amounts to a contribution of \$383 apiece from every American that could be used for budget-balancing.

Neither auctions of airwave channels nor picture upgrades are pie-in-the sky ideas. President Clinton's latest budget-balancing plan calls for \$13 billion to be wrung somehow from TV-band auctions in the next seven years. The Senate, which banned such auctions with the industry's help in 1993, this fall ordered the FCC to reconsider the idea.

At the same time, ABC, NBC, and CBS are pressing the FCC to require several hours of air time daily of digital movie-quality, high-definition television (HDTV) to promote the digital transition. Fox and the Public Broadcasting System want to go digital, but want more flexibility in airing HDTV.

In any of these scenarios, today's television sets would be rendered obsolete.

"Does the audience want to go on this journey?" FCC Chairman Reed Hundt asked in a speech last month to the International Radio and Television Society. "Should we assume they will welcome the extinction of analog broadcast?"

Almost no one else in Washington is asking these questions, because the industry's presumption is yes.

Station owners received designated signal channels free under the 1934 Communications Act, basically to keep them from using signals that interfered with one another. In return, they accepted a public-law obligation to air local news, give politicians equal treatment and deliver some community-service programs.

"It's a national scandal," grouched former FCC Chairman Henry Geller. He said, for example, that broadcasters have claimed to provide educational programming for children via such programs as *America's Funniest Home Videos*, *Biker Mice from Mars* and *Yogi Bear*.

And yet the broadcasters' main policy argument for continued free airwave use is that they provide public-service programming and local news that somehow does the nation good. A second reason, but one quite aside from policy, is that shrinking network TV audiences are making it harder for stations to generate advertising revenue.

Part of the solution is the industry/government plan to switch from analog to digital transmission that's faster, crisper and richer in detail. Digital's superiority is a complicated matter, but it comes down to this: Analog broadcasting conveys sound and images by varying the height and length of the electronic waves your TV receives. In demonstrations at least, high-definition TV pictures are of 35mm movie quality. The sound is as good as CDs.

Until the switch is complete, viewers would see HDTV for major sporting and entertainment events, according to the broadcasters' plan. The rest of the time, stations would be free to air current programming -- plus all-news, all-sports, and home shopping channels, all of them potential new money-makers.

Whatever happens, viewers will need new TV sets to see the improved broadcasts. And note: Even promoters say it'll take a big digital set, 35 inches or larger and costing about \$1,500 more than current analog models, to see the difference in picture quality.

There's a cheaper alternative, but it's a no-gainer in terms of picture quality. Viewers can buy converters for about \$200 and turn new, improved digital images back into analog signals that today's equipment can air.

TV viewers who will foot the digital transition's bill, of course, have a right to complain. But viewers have been largely blacked out when

TO SPEAK OUT

- Write to Reed E. Hundt, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554-0001.
- Send questions and comments to the FCC via this Internet address: "fccinfo@fcc.gov".
- Write your senators c/o The Capitol, Washington, D.C. 20510, or representatives c/o The Capitol, Washington, D.C. 20515.

it comes to proposals about TV's future that reach about as deeply into America's living rooms as government ever gets.

One big reason is that network TV news shows have not reported that broadcasters could be asked to pay for spectrum they now get free, or that viewers might have to junk their sets for progress.

"It's self-censorship" reckons Edward Fouhy, a veteran senior news producer and executive who has worked at CBS, ABC and NBC. "You're an assigning editor or a supervising producer. . . . One story is going to make your company brass mad; the other story is perfectly legitimate, but it's not going to offend your company. You make the easy choice."

Consumer advocacy groups aren't doing much better at getting out the word.

"Environmentalists do OK," explained Jeff Chester of the Center for Media Education in Washington. "But public ownership of the electromagnetic spectrum isn't so easy to understand and relate to as public park land."